

Drug file

March 15, 1973

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

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torial from the Chicago Sun-Times which highlights this "national disgrace." I want to commend Emmett Dedmon, the distinguished vice president, and editorial director of the Chicago Sun-Times, as well as his editorial staff, for this outstanding editorial which so succinctly portrays the problem facing our veterans. The editorial follows:

SHORTCHANGING THE VETERANS

The Veterans Administration has been accused by a congressional committee of a shocking lack of concern for those whose welfare it is supposed to help safeguard. A study prepared by the staff of a House Appropriations subcommittee asserted that thousands of ailing patients suffer from a dangerous lack of care at VA hospitals and sometimes are discharged in worse shape than when they were admitted. The 41-page committee study also accused the VA of trying to conceal hospital conditions by distorting records. The VA pointed to an increased staff-patient ratio, but the committee said the figures do not mean that many more employees became involved in patient care.

Taken alone, the investigators' report constitutes a serious indictment of the VA. But it is only the latest evidence that the VA's commitment to U.S. servicemen is less than genuine. On Feb. 14, the VA was forced by President Nixon to withdraw plans to cut benefits for amputees and other disabled Vietnam GIs because the proposal provoked instant and bitter outrage from Congress and groups concerned about veterans' benefits. Earlier this month, officials of the West Side Veterans Hospital refused to say how much taxpayers' money was being used to refurbish an executive suite at the hospital. The hospital's administration said it couldn't divulge this information because it was in the midst of an internal investigation of newspaper reports on the hospital's management. In 1971, patients at VA hospitals in Georgia and Texas were sweltering in summer heat without air conditioning while multimillion-dollar projects were under way to cool VA hospitals in the North.

Needed help may be on the way. Three bills increasing benefits for veterans by \$1.2 billion were passed by the Senate on Tuesday. Unfortunately, two of the measures are similar to bills that President Nixon pocket-vetoed last October, partly on the ground they were too costly. We don't buy that argument here. These disabled servicemen have paid the cost of their care, some of them with their arms and legs. They are entitled to the best medical care the nation can provide. If the committee's report is accurate—and we believe its findings should be examined closely—that care is a national disgrace. Mr. Nixon on several occasions has expressed his and the nation's gratitude for the service rendered by these servicemen. Such gratitude should be expressed in dollars.

Mr. Speaker, recently I made my Chicago office available to help veterans in the 11th Congressional District of Illinois, which I am privileged to represent, find the jobs or career programs suitable to their individual needs. We are proud of the veterans in our community and with help from the city of Chicago and the people of the northwest side, we have been successful in this effort.

As a Member of Congress, however, it is my duty to see that all of our veterans throughout the United States, both old and young, get the necessary readjustment services. I intend to do all I can to make sure that the sacrifices of our veterans are rewarded not with promises, rhetoric, and high-sounding phrases, but with practical job, educational, and health programs suited to their needs.

I voted for the veterans bills in the 92d Congress, which were subsequently vetoed by the President, and I intend to do so again when these bills, and other similar measures, are brought to a vote in the 93d Congress—as they must be.

IRAN COMMENDED FOR RECORD
SEIZURE OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS

HON. FRANK HORTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 1973

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Speaker, the success of our country's war on drug abuse hinges, to a great extent, on effective efforts to halt international drug trafficking. We are sharply critical of any country which, in our view, is failing to make a maximum effort to halt the flow of illicit drugs. It is equally important that we recognize those countries that are acting decisively to suppress narcotics trafficking.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I feel it is important that my colleagues be aware of the outstanding record of the Iranian Government and police force in the war on international drug trafficking. On February 10, 1973, the Iranian gendarmerie seized a world record 12.7 tons of opium which was being smuggled into their country. During the period December 21, 1971, to February 26, 1973, only 14 months, the Iranian police seized 51,333 pounds or 26 tons of opium, 81 pounds of morphine base, 80 pounds of heroin, and 5,591 pounds of hashish.

The significance of these seizures is further revealed in a telegraphed message from John Ingersoll, Director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, to General Zargham, Commanding General of the Imperial Iranian Gendarmerie:

My staff in Tehran has notified me of the arrest of eight armed smugglers and the seizure of 12,700 kilos of opium near the Afghan border in Khorassan province by your men.

This most notable enforcement effort is very gratifying to me and all U.S. officials working on stopping international illicit narcotics trafficking.

To my knowledge this is the largest single seizure of illicit narcotics reported in recent history. I am most particularly appreciative of the efforts of the Iranian Government in suppressing illicit narcotics trafficking.

You and the Imperial Iranian Gendarmerie are to be commended for this remarkable achievement.

You have the U.S. Government's continued full support of your narcotics enforcement program.

I am extremely pleased to recognize these achievements of the Iranian Government because I have seen first-hand the operation of that country's narcotics enforcement program. Iran was among the 11 foreign countries I visited last December at the request of the White House Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control. The purpose of that mission was to assess the effectiveness of bans on heroin trafficking in the Near East and to underscore the importance our country attaches to those ef-

forts. The commitment of the Iranians was particularly impressive in that the Shah of Iran has developed one of the most advanced programs of smuggling control, production control, and addict treatment anywhere in the world.

The record seizures of illicit narcotics are further evidence that Iran is completely serious about combating illicit trafficking of drugs into and out of Persia. The Iranian Government and police force should be commended by the Congress and by the American people for their outstanding record.

FIRST AID FOR REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRACY

HON. FRANK J. BRASCO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 1973

Mr. BRASCO. Mr. Speaker, this administration has previously shown a significant fondness for talking about constitutional government. The President asks others to obey its dictates. Yet he shows a fine disregard for such niceties when it comes his turn as Chief Executive to set a national example. However, I will take him literally and adhere to the rules, particularly in the area of division of powers between the legislative and executive branches.

Rumor still has it that the Congress originates revenue bills. Unless that belief is dispelled by forces greater than Congress, I shall continue to retain faith in that constitutional mandate.

This means simply what the Congress appropriates and orders spent on a given public policy should be spent accordingly by the executive branch. It does not mean that half of it should be spent and the other half held back by the order of the President.

In recent months we have all become aware that in the now-swollen Office of Management and Budget there resides a new, almost omnipotent deity, and he is known as the accountant. Possessing a cash register instead of a heart, he spits on the end of his lead pencil and makes marks on yellow pads, a la his employer.

He makes large dollar marks for military hardware and very small ones for domestic benefit programs. He authorizes full expenditures for weapons systems and contracts to hardware merchants, such as Litton Industries, whose former President now heads this office.

Then he and his confreres authorize minimal and partial expenditures of congressionally appropriated and authorized funds for domestic programs benefitting millions of Americans. I refer to programs involving health, education, child-care, housing, the elderly, and many others that the Congress in its wisdom has termed essential to the well being of America.

Now in a kingdom where a person rules by divine right, as they used to say, the Parliament could authorize expenditure of funds and a king could loll back on his throne and laugh at such feeble gestures of democracy on the part of a body elected directly by the people.